

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 OIC-02 /133 W

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R 241735Z JUN 75

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4018

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT ETRD

SUBJECT: GATT GROUP OF 18 (CONSULTATIVE GROUP)

REF: (A) STATE 145817; (B) GENEVA 4620

SUMMARY: GATT DG LONG HELD MEETING OF INFORMAL GROUP
JUNE 23 TO DISCUSS GATT GROUP OF 18 (GATT CONSULTATIVE
GROUP). ALL KEY PARTICIPANTS INDICATED CONTINUED
SUPPORT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUP AND THERE WAS GENERAL
AGREEMENT ON TERMS OF REFERENCE WORKED OUT LAST FALL.
LONG INDICATED HE INTENDED PUT MATTER TO GATT COUNCIL
FOR FORMAL APPROVAL BEFORE SUMMER RECESS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT, DG LONG RECALLED PREVIOUS
DISCUSSION ON GATT GROUP AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GROUP
COULD NOW BE SET UP. CONCERNING TERMS OF REFERENCE, HE
INDICATED THOSE SET FORTH IN OCTOBER 10 PAPER (REFTEL
(B)() HAD BEEN DISCUSSED WITH WIDE RANGE OF GATT
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COUNTRIES INCLUDING THOSE NOT PRESENT AT PRESENT

MEETING AND THEY SEEMED UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTABLE. CONCERNING MEMBERSHIP, HE SUGGESTED THREE FROM EACH MAOR LDC REGION, SEVEN FROM THE WESTERN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, ONE FROM MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND ONE FROM THE EASTERN COUNTRIES IN GATT. HE ALSO NOTED THERE COULD BE ALTERNATES PRESENT AS IN IMF.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT TOUR DE TABLE ALL REPRESENTATIVES EXCEPT POLAND AND NEW ZEALAND EXPLICITLY SUPPORTED ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUP. POLAND ASSERTED THAT GROUP OF THREE EE'S CONSIDERED THEY NEEDED TWO PLACES, AND ACCORDINGLY HE COULD ONLY TAKE NOTE OF LONG PROPOSAL AND CONSULT HIS AND OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS. NOTE: EE GROUP CONSISTS OF POLAND, HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. PATTERSON TELLS US ROMANIA IS IN LIMBO BECAUSE IT WANTS TO BE IN LDC, NOT EE GROUP, BUT SINCE ROMANIA IS NOT MEMBER GROUP OF 77, THIS PROBABLY NOT POSSIBLE. NEW ZEALAND REMARKS RELATED SOLELY TO QUESTION OF STATUS OF ALTERNATES, AND LEFT IMPRESSION FINAL POSITION WOULD DEPEND ON ITS BEING SATISFIED ON THIS ISSUE. NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR EASTERBROOK-SMITH ARGUED ALTERNATES SHOULD HAVE ENTIRELY SAME RIGHTS AS FORMALLY DESIGNATED MEMBERS -- NOT ONLY RIGHT TO SPEAK, BUT RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. LONG'S RESPONSE WAS FUZZY, NOTING THAT ALTERNATES WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE RIGHT TO SPEAK BUT IGNORING POINT ABOUT DECISION-MAKING. US SAID WE CONSIDER GROUP WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY CONSULTATIVE WITH COUNCIL AND CPS MAINTAINING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS. WHILE GROUP MIGHT TAKE SOME PROCEDURAL DECISIONS (E.G., RECOMMENDATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO COUNCIL AND CPS, DATES OF MEETINGS, ETC.), WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO TRADITIONAL GATT METHOD OF OPERATING BY CONSENSUS AND EXPECT THAT THIS WOULD PREVAIL IN GROUP OF 18 AS WELL.

3. CONCERNING NATURE OF GROUP, US NOTED WE CONSIDER FORMERLY USED TERM "MANAGEMENT GROUP" MISNOMER AND SUGGESTED SOME OTHER TITLE SUCH AS "CONSULTATIVE GROUP". LONG RESPONDED THAT HE FELT ONLY NAME THAT WOULD NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESULT IN MISUNDERSTANDING AND COULD ACHIEVE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT WOULD BE "GROUP OF 18." WE INDICATED WE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO US. WE ALSO EXPRESSED US VIEWS REFTTEL (A) CONCERNING NEED FOR ADVANCE CONSENSUS ON AGENDA, AND POSSIBILITY OF GATT COUNCIL AND CPS REFERRING MATTERS TO GROUP OF 18 FOR ADVICE.

4. THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT MATTER SHOULD BE PUT ON

AGENDA OF NEXT GATT COUNCIL FOR DECISION. WHILE ALL
AGREED THIS MEETING SHOULD BE BEFORE SUMMER RECESS,
THERE WERE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON EXACT DATE, SO
DECISION ON THIS WAS DEFERRED. DALE

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